

to be given up to us." The Muslims saw how bruised and blood stained (Hazrat) Abu Jundal's body was owing to the atrocious ill-treatment to which he had been subjected by the cruel Quresh and how essential it was not only for the safety of (Hazrat) Abu Jundal, but also for the prestige of Islam that he should stay with them, but to the Prophet and his followers a pledge was a pledge and as such must be respected. So the Prophet agreed to this demand of Abu Jahl, and although (Hazrat) Abu Jundal knew full well what was in store for him at Mecca he accepted his fate without a grumble and the other Muslims too had not a word to say against this decision of the Prophet.

This was how Muslims of old kept their pledges.

STORY 12.

ISLAMIC FORTITUDE.

UNSHAKEN FAITH IN ISLAM.

WHEN the Muslims were numerically weak, their enemies, and sometimes their own unbelieving kith and kin subjected them to all sorts of hardships. But not one in the whole history of persecution was ever known to recant. The converts clung to their beloved faith with a tenacity which was marvellous.

When Ummisharik declared her faith in Islam her relatives used to make her stand in the blazing Arabian sun for hours. They gave her honey to eat because they believed that it produced heat in the body and caused thirst and they did not give her any water to allay her raging thirst.

After torturing her in this way for several days together her persecutors would ask her to renounce her faith. But although utterly exhausted by the torments she suffered, she would say, "By God I will stick to my faith through thick and thin. You can do your worst."